

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COA-01 EB-07 AID-05 /095 W

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R 161500Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3254

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL XSE NOUAKCHOTT 0092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP PDIP MR UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS SEEK CONSULATE IN NOUADHIBOU (CERP 0002)

1. DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF 8TH REGION TELLS US SOVIET EMBASSY IS NEGOTIATING WITH GIRM TO OPEN CONSULATE IN NOUADHIBOU, CAPITAL OF REGION AND SITE OF MAURITANIA'S ONLY SEA PORT. DEPUTY GOVERNOR ADDED THAT PERMISSION NOT YET RECEIVED NOR ASSURED. FRANCE AND SPAIN ARE ONLY NATIONS THAT PRESENTLY HAVE CONSULATES IN NOUADHIBOU.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE SOVIET DESIRE TO EXPAND DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION HERE, SOVIET-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS ARE NEITHER CLOSE NOR LIKELY TO BECOME CLOSE IN NEAR FUTURE. NADIR OF MOSCOW-NOUAKCHOTT RELATIONS REACHED IN JUNE 1973 WHEN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, PROTESTING SOVIET PROTOCOL ARRANGEMENTS, CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE HIS STATE VISIT TO SOVIET UNION. GIRM ALSO RESENTS MISERRB SOVIET CONTRIBUTION OF LESS THAN THREE PERCENT OF TOTAL FOOD GRAIN DONATIONS

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DURING LAST TWO YEARS OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN MAURITANIA.

WE SUGGEST SOVIET INTEREST IN NOUADHIBOU CONSULATE IS
RESULT OF FOLLOWING:

A. IN JULY 1974 SOVIETS OBTAINED OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING
AGREEMENT FOR AEROFLOT AT NOUADHIBOU (NOUAKCHOTT 889).

MOSCOW MAY WISH HAVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN CITY
WHERE SOVIET CITIZENS EXPECT TO TRANSIT.

B. DECEMBER 1974 VISIT OF SOVIET FISHING DELEGATION TO
MAURITANIA (NOUAKCHOTT 0001) MAY PRESAGE INCREASED QUOTA
FOR SOVIET FISHING BOATS UNDER EXISTING FISHING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN PORT
CITY WOULD FACILITATE ANY EXPANDED SOVIET FISHING OPERATIONS
AS WELL AS DEAL WITH INCREASED FREQUENCY WITH WHICH
MAURITANIAN NAVY HAS ARRESTED AND FINED SOVIET FISHERMEN
FOR VIOLATION OF FISHING AGREEMENT. SPANISH CONSULATE IN
NOUADHIBOU REPORTS FIVE SUCH ARRESTS IN 1974 WHICH,
IRONICALLY, ARE OFTEN MADE BY SOVIET PROVIDED COASTAL
PATROL VESSEL. SHINN

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